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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 3 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 10.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first nine weeks of 1984 was an estimated 151.4 billion ton-miles, 11.4 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 3 totaled 391,275 cars, 8.4 percent above 1983, but 0.4 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 10.2 percent in the East, 12.5 percent in the South and 8.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 3,589 cars, or 22.2 percent, metallic ores increased by 3,165 cars, or 28.2 percent and metals and products posted a gain of 2,839 cars, or 32.4 percent. Coal loadings increased by 8,458 cars, or 8.3 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 25 totaled 48,234 cars, up 13.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 83,310 trailers and/or containers, 22.8 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eight weeks of the year was 380,788 cars, 15.1 percent higher than last year, and 666,792 trailers and/or containers, up 18.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/3/84:

	Loadings in Week ended March 3, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,059	D	3,861	12.9	I	1,115	4.5
Other farm products	4,031	I	940	30.4	D	603	13.0
Metallic Ores	14,394	I	3,165	28.2	D	803	5.3
Coal	110,312	I	8,458	8.3	D	7,181	6.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,072	I	1,306	16.8	D	302	3.2
Nonmetallic minerals	10,918	I	714	7.0	I	178	1.7
Grain mill products	11,429	D	355	3.0	I	574	5.3
Food and kindred products	11,264	D	1,363	10.8	I	920	8.9
Primary forest products	13,636	D	1,331	8.9	D	980	6.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,123	I	1,268	18.5	I	98	1.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,753	I	17	0.1	I	556	3.7
Chemicals and allied products	26,869	I	1,792	7.1	I	1,843	7.4
Petroleum products	5,050	I	420	9.1	I	732	17.0
Stone, clay and glass products	10,467	I	1,371	15.1	D	384	3.5
Coke	4,869	I	232	5.0	I	43	0.9
Metals and products	11,589	I	2,839	32.4	I	795	7.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,763	I	3,589	22.2	D	1,297	6.2
Waste and scrap materials	10,216	I	2,121	26.2	D	552	5.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,258	I	243	2.7	D	810	8.0
All other carloads	57,849	I	8,591	17.4	I	4,554	8.5
LCL traffic	354	I	133	60.2	I	92	35.1
Total Cars Loaded	391,275	I	30,289	8.4	D	1,412	0.4
Corresponding week of 1983	360,986						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,413,000	3,083,012	I 10.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
8 weeks ended February 25	134.0	120.2	I 11.5
Week ended March 3	17.4	15.8	I 10.3
9 weeks cumulative	151.4	135.9	I 11.4

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